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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/579,976 | 05/22/2006 | Jong Chul Bang | 9988.327.00 | 3738 |

30827 7590 03/25/2009
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

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| EXAMINER |
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RIGGLEMAN, JASON PAUL

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1792

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| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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03/25/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/579,976 | Applicant(s) BANG, JONG CHUL | |
| | Examiner JASON P. RIGGLEMAN | Art Unit 1792 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
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| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/28/2008</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Foreign reference and Machine translation of Foreign reference.</u> |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. The claims are objected to because the lines are crowded too closely together, making reading difficult. Substitute claims with lines one and one-half or double spaced on good quality paper are required. See 37 CFR 1.52(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. The term "distant exterior" in claim 18 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "distant exterior" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

4. Claims 1, 4, 11, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The structure of the "connecting portion" is not understood.

Note: this appears to be critical to the applicant's invention. In regards to claim 18, it is not understood how the wire connecting portion prevents water from contacting the wire connecting portion -- it appears that the filler prevents water contact.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sassone (German Patent Publication No. DE19650861) in view of Riller et al. (German Patent Publication No. 3728608).

7. Sassone teaches an aqua stopping device (1A) for a washing device having a valve body (valve housing 2A) including a passage (conduit 3A) formed within. At least one valve (solenoid valve 4) opens and closes the passage. A signal wire (electrical cable 21A) is connected to a terminal of the valve. A connecting wire (terminal ends 37) is connected to the signal wire and extends outward a predetermined distance. A connecting portion is provided at a portion connecting the signal wire to the connecting wire. An inner case (coat body 30) encloses the connecting portion. The inner case is attached to an inner surface of the outer case. The inner case includes an interior having filler injected (filled) therein in entirety. The connecting portion has filler injected there around. A connecting tube is attached to a lower portion of the valve body for passing wash water there through. An outer tube (element 33) is disposed around an exterior of the connecting tube for enclosing the connecting tube. The valve is aligned in plurality along the passage. The connecting portion connects two signal wires to one connecting wire. The valve is a solenoid valve. A signal wire is connected to a terminal of the solenoid valve. Filler insulates the connecting portion from an outside. The solenoid valve and signal wire are provided in duplicate. The washing device includes the tub of a dishwasher (inherent). A connecting tub for supplying water to the tub. The wire connecting portion prevents water from contacting the wire connecting portion. The inner case includes an interior space filled with filler. A leak detector is provided at an exterior (water catchment basin) of the

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tub for detecting leaks and the aqua stopping device operates according to a signal from the leak detector (see English machine translation).

8. Sassone does not teach that an outer case surrounding and connected to the inner case and forming an empty space; however, Riller et al. teaches outer case which surrounds the inner case and is connected to the inner case, Fig. 2. The device of Riller et al. has an empty space formed between the outer case and inner case. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Sassone with Riller et al. to create a wash-stopping device which had room to install additional components as needed inside the outer case to achieve the expected result and to connect the inner to outer case to improve stability to achieve the expected result. As a result, the use of filler at only the connecting portions would increase the amount of space inside the modified device to achieve the expected result of having additional room for more components.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON P. RIGGLEMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-5935. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Barr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792

Jason P Riggleman
Examiner
Art Unit 1792

/J. P. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 1792